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Appl. No. 10/763,393
March 17, 2009

MAR 17 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-31 (cancelled).

32 (currently amended). A method of treating a patient ~~in order to treat~~ having a neurodegenerative disorder comprising administering to ~~that said~~ patient a therapeutically effective amount of at least one of D- β -hydroxybutyric acid, acetoacetate, or a metabolic precursor or physiologically acceptable salt of D- β -hydroxybutyric acid or acetoacetate, thereby elevating the patient's blood levels of ketone bodies, defined as the sum total of D- β -hydroxybutyric acid and acetoacetate, to a therapeutic level effective to treat the disorder, wherein the patient's blood level is elevated to from 0.3mM to 20mM and wherein the disorder is memory loss ~~associated with aging~~.

33 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 32 wherein the metabolic precursor is selected from the group consisting of free fatty acids and triglycerides.

34 (new). A method as claimed in Claim 32 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is Alzheimer's disease.